

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Department of Economic Development



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2013

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2013 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,806,095 in tax credits to 35 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects will fund programming for 33 youth service projects and the construction of two new facilities. A 2013 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2013 projects have the potential to generate more than \$11.6 million in contributions, leveraging nearly \$6 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, YOP has raised \$130,153,768 in contributions for projects focused on serving Missouri's at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

The Youth Opportunities Program has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 (next page) shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from each of the last three calendar year allocations. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization

	2011	2012	2013
Credits Authorized To Date¹	\$5,349,902	\$5,948,237	\$5,806,095
Credits Issued To Date²	\$4,424,943	\$3,785,347	\$503,391
Credits Redeemed To Date³	\$3,345,284	\$2,310,171	\$0

¹ Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2013.

² Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2013 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

³ Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2013 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2011-2013 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The outcome numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The totals fluctuate from year to year due to varying project time frames, the types of projects funded each year, and the number of projects closed each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieved more than one outcome.

Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved

	2011	2012	2013
# of Jobs Retained and New	186	0	20
# Earning High School Diploma or GED	156	75	78
# Earning School Credits and/or Improving GPA	11,021	10,396	6,639
# Not Committing Crimes and/or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	15,939	9,195	6,472
# Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use and Completing Prevention Programs	9,390	1,576	2,310
# Completing Life Skills Training or Participating in Mentoring	3,658	8,667	8,186
# Learning Employment Skills and/or Receiving Job Placement	1,245	2,523	957
# Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, or Business	52,135	439	60,228
# Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as counseling, crisis intervention, improved social skills development, etc.)	14,698	18,170	5,584

As shown by the outcome data above, numerous organizations, using YOP as a tool, are successfully implementing projects to help at-risk youth become more productive adults. Youth In Need and A Million Stars, dba College Bound St. Louis, are two such organizations. These organizations are successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donor relationships, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged

youth. The following summaries demonstrate the ways in which these agencies are making positive, lasting differences to improve the lives of Missouri's most at-risk children.

Youth In Need

For Youth In Need it all started in 1974 when a group of volunteers, troubled by their community's response to runaway and homeless youth, reached out to a teenage runaway. The agency has been serving the greater St. Louis area ever since. Today, with 25 locations in six eastern Missouri counties, the organization employs more than 300 full- and part-time staff and serves over 10,000 of Missouri's most at-risk children and families every year.

Currently implementing a two year YOP project, Youth In Need is successfully utilizing YOP tax credits to expand and enhance the services of its Community Youth Outreach program, Office-Based Counseling, and its Emergency Shelter. These programs provide mobile outreach, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, and comprehensive residential services for runaway and homeless youth and their families.

The Community Youth (Mobile) Outreach program provides services on the streets of the St. Louis metropolitan area, providing items such as food, clothing, and hygiene products to street youth. The program also distributes Youth In Need literature and referral information to youth, provides case management, and follows up with youth through return visits.

Youth In Need's Counseling Program offers individual, family, and group counseling services to children and families who live in St. Charles and St. Louis Counties. Using a strengths-based philosophy, counselors help clients identify and use personal strengths and resources, and provide education and resource referrals to youth and their families. Particular emphasis is given to helping youth and families transition through the stages of development, to manage stress, and to cope.

Youth In Need's 12-bed Emergency Shelter is a residential center for youth in crisis, ages 10-18 years. As well as meeting the basic needs of housing, food, and safety, the shelter provides counseling, case management, education, and other support services to help youth reunite with their families or find an alternative living situation if appropriate. Youth can enroll in the program using the 24-Hour Help Line or on a walk-in basis.

The performance targets for Youth In Need's project include:

- 390 of 520 youth receiving Emergency Shelter services will maintain educational status and demonstrate improved functioning and life skills.
- 420 of 600 at-risk youth receiving office-based counseling services will show improved functioning in school, family, and daily life.
- 320 at-risk youth will receive emergency shelter services and transition from homelessness.

- 4,048 of 4,400 youth will demonstrate understanding of key principles relating to safety in high-risk situations.

In addition to the services discussed above, Youth In Need operates a Transitional Living Program for homeless teens and young adults (ages 16-21). Youth are given an opportunity to learn independent living skills and to work to complete their education and become self-sufficient community members. In November, as clients gathered for a Thanksgiving dinner, each and every one expressed gratitude for Youth In Need...for the kindness of the staff, for the support and guidance they've received, and for simply having a roof over their head and a warm bed. From that gathering, one young man's story and the impact of Youth In Need emerges...

Jake is 18 and has been homeless since his mom kicked him out of his home in St. Charles over a year ago. He tried to stay in school as long as he could but was eventually forced to drop out after finding it took all his time and energy simply to survive from day to day by scrounging for food and shelter. He finally made his way to Youth In Need, after learning about them from a friend. He started at Youth In Need's Emergency Shelter and then progressed to the Transitional Living Program. Discouraged, hopeless, and living in his car when November started, Jake now has a job as well as a safe place to live. At the holiday dinner, he put it simply, "My life was going nowhere, but now I feel like I have a future."

He added, "I can't stop smiling."

College Bound

Approved for a three year project, College Bound uses YOP donations to provide promising high school students, from under-resourced backgrounds and multiple risk factors, with structured programs to support academic success and career development. Students must demonstrate financial need to be eligible for the program, and priority is given to students who: will be first generation college students, have parents who were non-traditional students, and have special circumstances. Emphasis is placed on preparing students to apply, matriculate, and succeed in four-year colleges, with the goal of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through higher education.

To that end, College Bound provides the "Get Your Prep On", "Making the Grade", "Culture, Character, Capacity", and "Admission Accomplished" programs.

"Get Your Prep On" is a yearlong outreach program designed for 9th grade students and families to provide information and resources about the benefits of higher education. Through quarterly student workshops, parent information sessions, a college prep hotline for students and families, and a College Coach to provide in-school student advising, the program teaches youth how to plan, prepare, pay for, and pursue a college education.



“Making the Grade” is a comprehensive enrichment program with the goal of giving students the academic foundation needed to succeed in college level coursework. The program includes: weekly one-on-one tutoring, AP study groups and in-school small group tutoring, a three-week summer institute in advanced mathematics and language arts, three-day math intensives, a one-week summer immersion, workshops on essay writing and critical thinking, guidance on college preparatory course selection, and ongoing check-ins.

“Culture, Character, Capacity” is a wrap-around program that exposes students to cultural events, community service, and financial, social service, and mentoring resources. The goal of the program is to provide students with the cultural capital to succeed in diverse higher education settings, to experience the power of service to others, and to mitigate the effects of social, financial and psychological hardship that can detour students on their path to college success. “Culture, Character, and Capacity” includes: residential character building, leadership and citizenship programs, community service opportunities, internships in government and local businesses, life skills and healthy living workshops with community partners, weekly field trips, referrals to housing, health, crisis and other social service agencies as needed, and stipends for at-risk students on a case-by-case basis.

“Admission Accomplished” is a college access program with the goal of preparing students for selective colleges that match their interests, ability, and financial resources. Among the activities offered in this program, are: ACT preparation courses, college guidance, parent education, college tours, a speaker series and job shadowing opportunities, ongoing mentoring, and weekly classes on subjects ranging from college vocabulary, admissions requirements, and financial literacy to career exploration and personal learning styles.

College Bound’s YOP performance targets include:

- 339 of 353 11th and 12th grade participants will increase their ACT score from baseline to final. The average increase will be at least 15%.
- 232 of 245 students will matriculate to college immediately after high school.



Organization Name	Authorized Amount
(NCADA) National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse	\$240,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$250,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Greater Kansas City	\$250,000.00
Boys And Girls Club Of Poplar Bluff	\$150,872.00
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$144,756.00
Catholic Family Services	\$150,000.00
Chad's Coalition For Mental Health	\$25,000.00
Children's Foundation Of Mid-America/Presbyterian Children Services	\$190,989.00
Coca-Center Of Creative Arts	\$168,829.00
Community Living, Inc.	\$51,758.00
Covenant House Missouri	\$233,616.00
De La Salle Education Center	\$180,913.00
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$225,360.00
Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis	\$69,738.00
Gene Slay's Boys' Club Of St. Louis	\$150,000.00
Job Point	\$125,000.00
Junior Achievement Of Greater St. Louis, Inc.	\$250,000.00
Kingdom House	\$250,000.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Missouri	\$223,786.00
MBCH Children & Family Ministries	\$48,472.00
Niles Home For Children	\$60,000.00
Our Little Haven	\$137,500.00
Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.	\$250,000.00
Preferred Family Healthcare, Inc.	\$250,000.00
Restart, Inc.	\$73,358.00
Southside Early Childhood Center	\$249,499.00
St. Joseph Institute For The Deaf	\$163,344.00
St. Louis Internship Program	\$79,416.00
St. Patrick Center	\$191,801.00
The Little Bit Foundation	\$189,257.00
University City Children's Center	\$250,000.00
Whole Kids Outreach, Inc.	\$184,651.00
Women In Charge	\$71,961.00
Youth First Corporate DBA Young Faith In Christ	\$56,204.00
Youth In Need	\$220,014.50